

**In the Abstract**

Please amend the Abstract as presented in the underlying International Application No. PCT/EP2003/013551 as follows:

**ABSTRACT**

~~The invention relates to an~~ An engine hood (1) for motor vehicles ~~which~~ has a deformable head impact zone (15) to protect pedestrians in the event of a collision with the motor vehicle. The engine hood (1) comprises an outer shell (2), which is formed by the body paneling, and an inner shell (3) which is arranged below the outer shell (2) and is connected to the outer shell (2). ~~According to the invention, the~~ The inner shell (3) is provided with a vault-structured stiffening region (10) in the region of the head impact zone (15). ~~This configuration of the engine hood (1) allows a very homogeneous force level and therefore a very homogeneous energy absorption behavior to be achieved in the head impact zone (15). Furthermore, the engine hood (1) has a very low effective thickness in the head impact zone (15), resulting in a greater free deformation movement of the engine hood (1) with respect to the equipment (25) in the engine compartment in the event of a collision.~~